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## Joint Committee on Academic Planning Minutes October 9, 2014

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Joint Committee on Academic Planning (JCAP)  
Thursday, October 9, 2014**

**3:00 – 4:30 PM, President's Conference Room, Green Hall**

**Minutes**

**Attendance:** Provost Don DeHayes, *Chairperson*, Joëlle Rollo Koster, *Vice Chairperson*, Marilyn Barbour, Laura Beauvais, Susan Trostle Brand, Michael Cerbo, James Kinnie, Kat Quina, Damon Rarick, Gerald Sonnenfeld, Mary Sullivan, Devon Swanson, Naomi Thompson, Linda Welters, and Nasser Zawia.

**Members Absent:** Mary Jo Gonzales and Ann Morrissey

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM. Minutes from the September 11, 2014 meeting were approved as amended.

**2. Announcements.**

- a. Vice President Sonnenfeld reported that Associate Vice President James Petell of Intellectual Property would be leaving the University at the end of October to take another position.
- b. Associate Vice President Thompson reported that the Office of Community, Equity, and Diversity is filling two positions, Director of Community and Organizational Development and Director of Diverse Faculty Recruitment and Retention. Interviews are ongoing.

**3. Ongoing Business.**

In consideration of updating the Academic Plan, Vice Chairperson Rollo Koster asked if data collected as indicators of progress of the existing plan could be reviewed and analyzed. Provost DeHayes indicated that a progress report on the Transformational Goals for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century had been produced. He said he would provide the committee with copies.

The committee addressed updating the current Academic Plan by examining and discussing trends impacting higher education. Professor Kinnie summarized the LEAP initiative, *Vision for Learning*, a model for liberal education as an approach to college learning. The report describes essential learning outcomes as important to the development of fully engaged citizens and ideally integrated into the majors and not just associated with general education. Principles of

excellence, high-impact educational practices, designs for general education, and the value placed on liberal education by employers are considered in the report.

Vice Chairperson Rollo Koster and Vice Provost Beauvais summarized the keynote speech on academic futuring at the March 2013 Conference of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development delivered by Jamie P. Merisotis, President and CEO of the Lumina Foundation. The speech addresses the concept of a high-quality credential and the benefit of what is learned and gained over the attainment of the credential. The application of what is learned is of greater value than the degree. The speech focuses on the need to develop effective means of learning-outcomes assessment.

Professors Barbour and Brand reviewed an online article published by Fast Company ([www.fastcoexist.com](http://www.fastcoexist.com)), *Five Bold Predictions For The Future Of Higher Education*. The article addresses the declining college-aged demographic and comments on methods and models for attracting students and ensuring their learning. Topics addressed include multidisciplinary learning and connecting students with businesses, online education, student recruitment and retention as linked to student (campus) life experiences, co-curricular, technological infrastructure and cyber security, and performance-based institutional funding.

Associate Dean Quina and Senator Rarick summarized the *New Media Consortium Horizon Report, 2014 Higher Education Preview*. A panel of 50 experts in educational technology analyzed current trends and emerging technologies, hardware and software, that are or will impact higher education over the next five years. The reviewers commented that adaptability, willingness to change, and innovative teaching will serve the institution well in addressing the challenges of educational technology.

Associate Vice President Thompson and Senator Welters summarized an article titled "Creative Destruction," published in the *Economist*. The article defines three disruptive waves: a funding crisis (student debt rising and public support shrinking), a technological revolution (negatively impacting job security), and the responsibility of universities to train and retrain workers throughout their careers. The article examines the pros and cons of MOOCs and recommends a hybrid model allowing for an online classroom experience coupled with brick-and-mortar social connections and experiential learning.

Dean Zawia and Senator Cerbo reported on the Lumina Foundation Strategic Plan 2013-2016. The goal of the plan is to increase by 60% the proportion of Americans with high-quality credentials by the year 2025 in order to meet the needs of the job market. The Foundation claims that by 2025 there will be a deficit of 23 million trained workers. The plan focuses on filling the gap through undergraduate initiatives: collaborations with elected officials, community leaders, and business leaders; and developing new finance and credentialing models.

The Provost noted some of the subjects that emerged from the articles reviewed by the committee members: adult learners, experiential learning, performance

based funding, educational technology, writing across the curriculum, learning compacts, active learning (flipped classroom), reading across the curriculum, financial aid. The committee discussed declining demographics and the high school drop out rate that is contributing to the shrinking pool of college aged students.

The Provost asked for volunteers for the Academic Summit subcommittee. The summit is tentatively scheduled for January 16, 2014 and will be devoted to planning and updating the current Academic Plan.

Mr. Swanson, Graduate Student Association President, commented on the discussions. As an undergraduate, he had found reading, writing, and opportunities for speaking to have been of great advantage to him. He also commented that, for him, college was a lot more than classes.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.